

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Priority Problem Justification

Teen Pregnancy:

Although the number of teen pregnancies decreased in 1996, local physicians and state data reported a drastic increase in 1997. The following chart shows Carroll County Adolescent Pregnancies for the past four years.

Carroll County Adolescent Pregnancies with Rates

Per 1,000 females aged 10-17 by Race

Race	1997 # Rate	1996 # Rate	1995 # Rate	1994 # Rate
All	34 22.3	21 13.8	37 25.9	45 31.4
White	30 23.0	17 13.1	25 20.4	41 33.5
Nonwhite	4 18.6	4 18.3	12 58.0	4 19.1

Dental Care for TennCare Recipients:

There are nine dentists currently serving Carroll County, none of them are signed with a TennCare MCO. The nearest Northwest Tennessee TennCare dental providers are located in Jackson (approximately 35 miles), Gibson County (33 miles), Henry County (24 miles) and Obion County (57 miles).

The current dental provider to TennCare patient ratio for Carroll County is 0:6,538. Carroll County currently ranks 6th worst out of 95 Tennessee counties for TennCare Dental Care.

Optometry Services:

The results of the Carroll County Community Survey (536 respondents) revealed that 24% (128) of those surveyed considered access to eye care to be inadequate. There are 8 optometrist located in Carroll County.

Youth Health Issues:

Teen Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Use

Two of Carroll County's High Schools participated in the Tennessee High School (Grade 9-12) Survey of 1996, however the results were only released to the participating schools. Therefore, the following comparisons are made using survey data collected from the northwest region participants (Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley) as well as state percentages. Using population estimates for 1997 there are approximately 1,600 students enrolled in high school in Carroll County. The following numbers are estimates of Carroll County student involvement derived from the regional percentages.

Ever smoked cigarettes (once to daily use)

Northwest = 64.5%
State = 61.8%
Carroll Co. = 1,032 Students

Ever used Alcohol

Northwest = 70.7%
State = 68.2%
Carroll Co. = 1,131

Ever used Marijuana (Pot)

Northwest = 31.1%
State = 35.9%
Carroll Co. = 498

Ever used Cocaine/Crack

Northwest = 5.4%
State = 6.3%
Carroll Co. = 864

Bought Drugs at School

Northwest = 14.8%
State = 17.9%
Carroll Co. = 237

Offered or Given Drugs at School

Northwest = 39.5%
State = 42.9%
Carroll Co. = 632